

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Women's Rights National Historical Park



The Votes for Women History Trail Route

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A History and timeline

- FY 1999 \$100,000 appropriated to develop a trail study
- March 2002 Votes for Women History Trail Act of 2002 introduced but not enacted
- June 2002 Women's Rights History Trail Feasibility Study released
- March/April 2003 Votes for Women History Trail Act introduced but not enacted

Timeline

- January 2004 Women's Rights History Trail Feasibility Study transmitted to Congress
- September 2005 National Women's Rights History Project Act of 2005 introduced but not enacted
- July 2007 National Women's Rights History Project Act introduced but not enacted

March 2009

- Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111
- Language in the act fundamentally the same as the bills filed in 2005 and 2007.
- Legislation includes the trail, inventory and documentation, and network concepts.
- This legislation was signed into law by President Obama on March 30, 2009.

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Three portions
 - Votes for Women Trail
 - National Women's Rights History Project National Registry
 - National Women's Rights History Project Partnerships Network

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Votes for Women Trail
 - Establishment of Trail Route
 - “The Secretary, with concurrence of the agency having jurisdiction over the relevant roads, may designate a vehicular tour route, to be known as the ‘Votes for Women History Trail Route’, to link properties in the State [NY] that are historically and thematically associated with the struggle for women’s suffrage in the United States”

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

■ Activities

- To facilitate the establishment of the Trail and the dissemination of information regarding the Trail, the Secretary shall
 - 1) Produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials regarding the Trail, such as handbooks, maps, exhibits, signs, interpretive guides, and electronic information;

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

■ Activities (cont.)

- To facilitate the establishment of the Trail and the dissemination of information regarding the Trail, the Secretary shall
 - 2) Coordinate the management, planning, and standards of the Trail in partnership with participating properties, other Federal Agencies, and State and local governments;

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

■ Activities (cont.)

- To facilitate the establishment of the Trail and the dissemination of information regarding the Trail, the Secretary shall

- 3) Create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device to mark the Trail,
AND
- 4) issue guidelines for the use of the symbol or device adopted under paragraph (3)

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

■ Elements of Trail Route

- Subject to the consent of the owner of the property, the Secretary may designate as an official stop on the Trail-
 - 1) all units and programs of the Park (Women's Rights NHP) relating to the struggle for women's suffrage;

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

■ Elements of Trail Route

- Subject to the consent of the owner of the property, the Secretary may designate as an official stop on the Trail-
 - 2) other Federal, State, local, and privately owned properties that the Secretary determines to have a verifiable connection to the struggle for women's suffrage;
and

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

■ Elements of Trail Route

- Subject to the consent of the owner of the property, the *Secretary* may designate as an official stop on the Trail-
 - 3) other governmental and nongovernmental facilities and programs of an educational, commemorative, research, or interpretive nature that the *Secretary* determines to be directly related to the struggle for women's suffrage.

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Authorization of Appropriations
 - There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as are necessary for the period of fiscal years 2009 through 2013 to provide financial assistance to cooperating entities pursuant to agreements or memoranda entered into

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Since 2009, funds have been AUTHORIZED but not APPROPRIATED

Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-11)- Title VII- Section 7111

- Funding for Trail development was requested in the National Park Service's 2011 budget submitted to Congress, but no funding was appropriated.

Women's History: A DOI Priority

- At a town hall meeting, Secretary of Interior Ken Salazar stated “Interior has the unique responsibility and privilege to ensure that America’s full story is told to current and future generations. This means celebrating the contributions of women throughout history- not just in textbooks, but through the places that belong to all of us, like our national parks and landmarks.”

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- While there is still no allocation or stable funding source, the NPS has committed resources to be able to lay the foundation required to establish the Trail.

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- Funding will be used to
 - Establish Foundation Documents for the Park and Trail
 - Develop criteria
 - Identify the selection process

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- A Foundation Document is a formal statement of the unit's core mission and provides basic guidance about the decisions to be made about the unit.

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- A Foundation Document describes the core mission and underpinnings of the park unit by identifying its purpose, significance, fundamental and other important resources and values, primary interpretive themes, and special mandates and administrative commitments

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- A Foundation Document enables the unit to more effectively prioritize its actions to ensure that the most important objectives are accomplished before less important tasks not directly related to the mission are undertaken.

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- Consistent with the Trail's legislation which mandates sites have a "verifiable connection to the struggle for women's suffrage," criteria will be developed that will guide the selection of sites for participation on the Votes for Women Trail.

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- Establish a single and consistent process to determine possible sites for inclusion in the Trail.
- Sites within Women's Rights National Historical Park will also be evaluated using the established criteria and process as required by law.

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- These efforts to develop the Trail , which are required by law, will begin this summer and continue through fall of 2013.

Efforts to begin the Votes for Women Trail

- It is only through this one time special funding through the Washington D.C. Cultural Resource Office, that we are able to undertake these planning efforts.
- At this time no funds have been *appropriated* for Trail, development or maintenance. The Trail has no identified, stable funding source.



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